

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 14738 210945Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /063 W
----- 077909 /20

R 210731Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3133
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR US CH
SUBJECT: HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS BRZEINSKI APPOINTMENT,
DEFENSE VACANCY

REF: A) HONG KONG 14376, B) PEKING 2064

1. WHILE CONTINUING TO WARN PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER THAT
SOVIET PROTESTATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP ARE NOT TO BE BELIEVED
(REF A), A LOCAL COMMUNIST PRESS COMMENTARY HAS EXPRESSED
IMPLICIT APPROVAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
TO HEAD THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. THE DECEMBER 21 TA
KUNG PAO COMMENTARY CITES A BALTIMORE SUN STATEMENT THAT
BRZEZINSKI IS NOT KISSINGER; HE WOULD RELY MORE ON COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED WORLD RATHER THAN SUPER-
POWER AGREEMENT IN CONSTRUCTING A WORLD ORDER. IT ALSO NOTES
AMERICAN PRESS SPECULATION THAT SECRETARY OF STATE-DESIGNATE
VANCE WILL "ONLY BE AN EXECUTOR" OF FOREIGN POLICY BECAUSE
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BRZEZINSKI WILL BE CARTER'S WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR.

2. THE COMMENTARY EXPRESSES ITS INTEREST IN JAMES SCHLESINGER
AS CARTER'S SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. IT CLAIMS SCHLESINGER WAS
SUPPORTED BY MANY PEOPLE AND WAS CARTER'S ORIGINAL CHOICE FOR
THE POST, BUT THAT HE HAS MET OPPOSITION FROM CONGRESS AND

MOREOVER "WOULD NOT BE PLEASING" TO THE RUSSIANS. THE COMMENTARY CALLS HAROLD BROWN THE CURRENT FAVORITE FOR THE POSITION, BUT POINTEDLY NOTES THAT SENATOR HENRY JACKSON, A MAN WHOSE POSITION ON THE SOVIETS IS SHARED BY THE CHINESE, HAS CRITICIZED BROWN FOR BEING TOO WEAK IN PAST NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE PEKING DOMESTIC MEDIA ORGANS HAVE REFRAINED FROM ANY COMMENTARY ON PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER, THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS CONTINUES TO VIEW HIS APPOINTMENTS AND STATEMENTS IN AREAS CONCERNING FOREIGN POLICY PRIMARILY THROUGH ITS ANTI-SOVIET PRISM. PREVIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY CARTER AND VANCE ON A WILLINGNESS TO CONCLUDE A SALT AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS DREW A PREDICTABLE NEGATIVE CHINESE REACTION, BUT THE PRC OBVIOUSLY VIEWS THE BRZEZINSKI APPOINTMENT AS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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